

CLAIMS

1. A block copolymer comprising:

at least two S polymer blocks, each comprising at
5 least 70 % by weight of vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon
monomer units, and

one or more B polymer blocks selected from the
following polymer blocks (a), (b) and (c):

(a) a polymer block comprising isoprene
10 monomer units or comprising isoprene monomer
units and vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon monomer
units,

(b) a polymer block comprising 1,3-
butadiene monomer units or comprising 1,3-
15 butadiene monomer units and vinyl aromatic hy-
drocarbon monomer units, and

(c) a polymer block comprising isoprene
monomer units and 1,3-butadiene monomer units
or comprising isoprene monomer units, 1,3-
20 butadiene monomer units and vinyl aromatic hy-
drocarbon monomer units,

wherein the content of the vinyl aromatic
hydrocarbon monomer units in each of said
polymer blocks (a) to (c) is less than 70 % by
25 weight,

wherein said one or more B polymer blocks are comprised of one system selected from the group consisting of (B-1) to (B-5):

(B-1) at least one polymer block (a) and at least one polymer block (b) in combination,

(B-2) at least one polymer block (a) and at least one polymer block (c) in combination,

(B-3) at least one polymer block (a), at least one polymer block (b) and at least one polymer block (c) in combination,

(B-4) at least one polymer block (b) and at least one polymer block (c) in combination, and

(B-5) at least one polymer block (c) alone, the amount of the vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon monomer units in said block copolymer and the total amount of the isoprene monomer units and the 1,3-butadiene monomer units in said block copolymer being, respectively, from 60 to 95 % by weight and from 40 to 5 % by weight, each based on the weight of said block copolymer,

said block copolymer having an isoprene monomer unit/1,3-butadiene monomer unit weight ratio of from 45/55 to 97/3, and

wherein the vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon monomer unit moiety of said block copolymer has a short segment

ratio of from 0 to 30 % by weight, wherein said short
segment ratio is defined as the weight percentage,
based on the total weight of vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon
monomer units contained in said block copolymer, of the
5 vinyl aromatic hydrocarbon monomer units contained in
at least one short segment consisting of 1 to 3 vinyl
aromatic hydrocarbon monomer units.

2. The block copolymer according to claim 1, which
10 comprises (B-5) at least one polymer block (c) alone as
said B polymer block.

3. The block copolymer according to claim 1, which
comprises (B-1) at least one polymer block (a) and at
15 least one polymer block (b) in combination as said B
polymer block.

4. The block copolymer according to claim 1, wherein
said isoprene monomer unit/1,3-butadiene monomer unit
20 weight ratio is in the range of from 55/45 to 95/5.

5. The block copolymer according to claim 1, wherein
said short segment ratio is in the range of from 1 to
25 % by weight.

6. The block copolymer according to claim 1, which is a linear block copolymer.

7. A block copolymer composition comprising 100 parts by weight of the block copolymer of any one of claims 1 to 6 and 0.05 to 3 parts by weight of at least one stabilizer which is selected from the group consisting of 2-(1-(2-hydroxy-3,5-di-t-pentylphenyl)ethyl)-4,6-di-t-pentylphenyl acrylate, 2-t-butyl-6-(3-t-butyl-2-hydroxy-5-methylbenzyl)-4-methylphenyl acrylate, and 2,4-bis((octylthio)methyl)-o-cresol.

8. A block copolymer/styrene resin composition comprising 10 to 99 % by weight of the block copolymer of any one of claims 1 to 6 and 90 to 1 % by weight of a styrene resin.

9. A block copolymer/styrene resin composition comprising the block copolymer composition of claim 7 and a styrene resin, wherein the weight ratio of the block copolymer present in said block copolymer composition to said styrene resin is 10/90 to 99/1.